

Mid-week cave in by the Wanderers

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Hayes 4

ONE UP at the interval, Wycombe Wanderers caved in under the weight of Hayes' early second half strong-arm tactics at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening.

But, by the end, their football had fallen into such an apathetic state that the Athenian League visitors were well worth the maximum three away points they took from this Premier Floodlight League game.

The victory also served to strengthen Hayes' somewhat unconvincing position on top of the Section "A" table.

SMALL CROWD

A relatively small crowd, perhaps warned off by some poor matches already served up in the competition to date, were given a raw deal from the moment referee, Mr. Woods blew his whistle to start the latter 45 minutes.

Wycombe had been more than deserving half-time leaders. Their play, in sharp contrast to the first meeting at Church Road, was far above that of Hayes. But they had not pulled far enough ahead, for after a string of quite crude tackles on Geoff Anthony in particular, the Athenians got on top of their Isthmian opponents, who grew ragged, almost disinterested, as time wore on.

Thus Hayes took sweet revenge for the travesty of a result earlier in the season when Wycombe won by the only goal after being totally outplayed.

With Keith Blunt working well in mid-field and even displaying no inhibitions about shooting for goal, Wanderers started off as they had finished last week's 4-0 away trouncing of Chesham.

A goal had to come, and indeed it was Anthony, persistent as ever, who netted it, avoiding the attentions of the visiting defence as he ran on in the 26th minute.

NEAR CALL

Hesling kicked a Barry Baker shot off the Hayes line within minutes, but Wanderers defence never really excelled, and after the interval, were often little short of disorganised.

The truth became blatantly obvious, as Hayes, tough and determined, caught them so square, so often that it just wasn't funny.

Kelman, the burly Hayes number five, was extremely fortunate only to receive a talking to after bringing Anthony down by the touchline in the early minutes.

After nine minutes, the visitors drew level, as ex-Southall man, Dave Juneman, scoring his first goal for the club, fired in a first time shot, which the defence should never have allowed him.

Twelve minutes later, Gale's slowness let Juneman make it 2-1, and in the 29th minute Coburn rounded O'Brien and shot in number three, despite desperate attempts from Ian Rundle to make a goal-line clearance.

NOT PENETRATIVE

Wanderers kept up the football in mid-field, yet from there on, the performance was not penetrative enough. While Johnny Bucke still suffers from a knee injury, he has yet to show one ounce of his old form for Wembley; Keith Searle, wisely not wishing to mix it too physically just before an important cup tie, faded.

Tony Horseman replaced Barry Baker (minus moustache), but strangely hesitant at that moment, Keith Stephenson must take the blame for the fourth Hayes goal. He stood and watched as Walshe carried the ball on to score, after a good "feint" from Coburn.

Wycombe Wanderers: K. O'Brien; D. Thomas, C. Gale; K. Stephenson, I. Rundle, K. Blunt; K. Samuels, B. Baker (Sub: Horseman), K. Searle, J. Bucke, G. Anthony.

Hayes: C. Langley; N. Hastings, P. Long; A. Carpenter, J. Kelman, M. McNutt; A. Hesling, P. Coburn, R. Fruen, D. Juneman, K. Walshe, Sub: R. Westgarth (not used).